AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a switch-box, wherein the switch-box comprises a memory buffer and a control, the memory buffer to which information is copied from a <u>first</u> computing system selected via the switch-box from two or more computing systems coupled with the switch-box as a result of the control recognizing a first <u>dedicated</u> predetermined event<u>, wherein the first computing system comprises a standard cut-and-copy buffer, and wherein the first dedicated predetermined event is an indication to copy the information to the memory buffer in the switch-box and not to the standard cut-and-copy buffer of the first computing system.</u>

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the information copied from ~~a~~ <u>the first</u> computing system selected via the switch-box is copied to ~~another selected~~ <u>a second</u> computing system of the two or more computing systems as a result of <u>the control recognizing</u> a second <u>dedicated</u> predetermined event<u>, wherein the second dedicated predetermined event is an indication to copy the information from the memory buffer in the switch-box to the second computing system.</u>

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3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the first and second dedicated predetermined events are predetermined respective first and second keystroke sequences.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a timer employed, at least in part, to recognize the first and second keystroke sequences.

5. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the switch-box is adapted to allow the memory buffer and a single set of interface devices to be selectively coupled at individual times with a one of the two or more computing systems based, at least in part, on a user selection.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the single set of interface devices comprises at least one of: a keyboard, a display monitor and a pointing device.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the two or more computing systems are coupled with the switch-box via a data transfer coupling and a set of interface device couplings.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the data transfer coupling comprises a parallel interface.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the data transfer coupling comprises a serial interface.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the serial interface comprises a Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the data transfer coupling comprises an infrared communication interface.

12. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

copying information from ~~one~~ a first computing system of at least two or more computing systems to an external buffer included in a switch-box, the switch-box being accessible by the two or more computing systems, the copying occurring as a result of a control recognizing a first ~~substantially~~ dedicated predetermined event, wherein the control is included in the switch-box, wherein the first computing system comprises a standard cut-and-copy buffer, and wherein the first dedicated predetermined event is an indication to copy the information to the external buffer in the switch-box and not to the standard cut-and-copy buffer of the first computing system.

13. (Currently amended)The method of claim 12, wherein copying information to the external buffer is accomplished by employing a standard cut-and-paste buffer of the ~~one of at least two or more computing systems~~ first computing system.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising copying the information

in the external buffer to ~~another~~ a second computing system of the two or more computing

systems as a result of a second dedicated predetermined event, wherein the second dedicated

predetermined event is an indication to copy the information from the external buffer in the

switch-box to the second computing system.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the first and second dedicated

predetermined events comprise predetermined, time-limited respective first and second

keystroke sequences.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the first and second keystroke

sequences are keystroke sequences defined by respective operating systems of the ~~one~~ first

computing system ~~of the more computing systems~~ and the ~~another~~ second computing system

~~of the two or more computing systems~~ for accessing standard cut-and-paste buffers employed

by those systems.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the first and second keystroke

sequences are dedicated keystroke sequences for copying information to and from the external

buffer.

18. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

determining by a control in a switch-box that a ~~network copy request~~ first dedicated

predetermined event has been generated by a user at a first computing system, wherein the

user has an associated user-id and wherein the first computing system comprises a standard

cut-and-copy buffer;

copying information from ~~a~~ the first computing system to a network cut-and-paste

data-structure as a result of the ~~network copy request~~ first dedicated predetermined event,

~~wherein the network cut-and-paste data-structure is stored in a memory buffer of the switch-~~

~~box~~ wherein the first dedicated predetermined event is an indication to copy the information

to the network cut-and-paste data-structure and not to the standard cut-and-copy buffer of the

first computing system; and

associating the copied information with ~~a~~ the associated user-id ~~for a current user~~ in

the network cut-and-paste ~~buffer~~ data-structure.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising

determining by the control that a ~~network paste request~~ second dedicated

predetermined event has been generated by the user at a second computing system;

searching the network cut-and-paste data structure as a result of the ~~network paste~~

~~request~~ second dedicated predetermined event, wherein the second dedicated predetermined

event is an indication to copy the information from the network cut-and-paste data structure

to the second computing system;

determining that the copied information associated with the associated user-id ~~for the~~

~~current user~~ exists in the <u>network</u> cut-and-paste data structure; and

as a result, pasting the copied information from the <u>network</u> cut-and-paste data-

structure to ~~a~~ <u>the</u> second computing system.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein determining that the ~~network copy~~
~~request~~ <u>first dedicated predetermined event</u> was generated comprises recognizing a first
predetermined, time-limited event.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein determining that the ~~network paste~~
~~request~~ <u>second dedicated predetermined event</u> has been generated comprises recognizing a
second predetermined, time-limited event.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second
predetermined, time-limited events comprise respective first and second keystroke sequences.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein copying information comprises employing a
standard cut-and-paste buffer for an operating system of the first computing system.

26. (Currently amended) An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine-readable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a computing system, the instructions provide for determining by a control in a switch-box that a ~~network copy request~~ first dedicated predetermined event has been generated by a user at a first computing system, wherein the user has an associated user-id and wherein the first computing system comprises a standard cut-and-copy buffer; copying information from ~~a~~ the first computing system to a network cut-and-paste data-structure as a result of the ~~network copy request~~ first dedicated predetermined event, ~~wherein the network cut-and-paste data-structure is stored in a memory buffer of the switch-box~~ wherein the first dedicated predetermined event is an indication to copy the information to the network cut-and-paste data-structure and not to the standard cut-and-copy buffer of the first computing system; and associating the copied information with ~~a~~ the associated user-id ~~for a current user~~ in the network cut-and-paste ~~buffer~~ data-structure.

27. (Currently amended) The article of claim 26, further comprising instructions for determining by the control that a ~~network request~~ second dedicated predetermined event has been generated by the user at a second computing system; searching the network cut-and-paste data structure as a result of the ~~network paste request~~ second dedicated predetermined event, wherein the second dedicated predetermined event is an indication to copy the information from the network cut-and-paste data structure to the second computing system; determining the copied information associated with the associated user-id ~~for the current user~~ exists in the network cut-and-paste data structure; and as a result, pasting the copied

information from the cut-and-paste data-structure to ~~a~~ <u>the</u> second computing system.

28. (Currently amended) The article of claim 27, wherein determining that the ~~network copy~~ ~~request~~ <u>first dedicated predetermined event</u> was generated comprises recognizing a first predetermined, time-limited event and determining that the ~~network paste request~~ <u>first</u> <u>dedicated predetermined event</u> was generated comprises recognizing a second predetermined, time-limited event.

29. (Currently amended) The article of claim 26, wherein the <u>network</u> cut-and-paste data structure comprises an array including a user-id data-field and an information-field.

30. (Original) The article of claim 29, wherein associating the user-id with the copied information comprises copying the user-id to a user-id data-field for a specific one array entry and copying the information to a corresponding information data-field for the specific one array entry.